



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2021

No. 211

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O Lord our God, You are robed with honor and majesty. Today, guide our lawmakers in their work, enabling them to be Your messengers of unity and hope. Lord, make them productive servants who live lives that honor You. Remind them that no good is permanently lost.

Lord, give them the wisdom to speak words that lead to life. Guide them away from crooked roads where they might slip and fall, as You strengthen them to seize opportunities that bring peace, hope, and freedom.

And Lord, we continue to praise You for the life and legacy of former Senator Robert Dole.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 7, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read nomination of Jessica Rosenworcel, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2020. (Reappointment)

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I want to begin today with a short update on the debt ceiling. Over the past few days, we have made good progress on this issue, and I am optimistic that we will be able to prevent the awful prospect of the U.S. defaulting on its sovereign debt for the first time ever. No-

body wants to see the United States default on its debts.

As Secretary Yellen has warned, a default could eviscerate everything we have done to recover from the COVID crisis. We don't want to see that and I don't believe we will see that and I continue to thank all of my colleagues for cooperating in good faith to preserve the full faith and credit of the United States.

NOMINATION OF JESSICA ROSENWORCEL

Mr. President, on Jessica Rosenworcel, the Senate will vote to confirm a remarkable, highly experienced, and historic nominee: Jessica Rosenworcel to be the Chair of the FCC, the Federal Communications Commission. Ms. Rosenworcel has served as a Commissioner at the FCC for nearly a decade, the past 10 months as Acting Chair.

I believe she will receive great bipartisan support as she becomes the first woman ever confirmed by this Chamber to lead the FCC. Ms. Rosenworcel is exactly the right person for the job in 2021. She has set herself apart as one of the Nation's leading champions for more affordable and accessible internet.

After the FCC repealed net neutrality during the Trump administration, the best thing the Senate can do is confirm someone with a proven record of standing on the side of American consumers.

Ms. Rosenworcel will also step in as Chair at a time when the FCC is carrying out the important task of expanding broadband to millions of Americans who have long been left behind. Ms. Rosenworcel is keenly aware of the immense damage that the digital divide has caused our country. It has shut out rural, urban, and low-income Americans, including far too many women and people of color for whom basic internet access remains unavailable or unaffordable, even as it is a necessity in the 21st century.

Ms. Rosenworcel has long focused on these issues, and I am confident that,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S8937